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From: Jim Krage <[jim@americanloanaudits.com](mailto:jim@americanloanaudits.com)>

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Subject: a California County Passes Historical Law Declaring Right to Self-Governance

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<<http://www.wakingtimes.com/2014/11/05/california-county-passes-historical-law-declaring-right-self-governance/>>

Mendocino County, in the pristine northern lands of California, where the magnificent ancient coastal Redwood trees meet the inland California Oaks, has voted itself into the constitution writing (righting) business.

Yesterday, by a significant margin, they became the first county in California, and only the second county in the country to pass into law a very powerful local ordinance that declares local self-governing rights in their communities over state and federal jurisdiction. Over 67% of the votes cast were in favor of the measure.

The ordinance provides for waters free from toxic trespass; preemptively bans all fracking activities countywide with heavy fines and penalties for violation of the ordinance; and establishes a Community Bill of Rights to, for, and by the residents of Mendocino County while checking corporate powers as well.

In addition, the newly created law gives the Rights of Nature to exist and flourish without toxic trespass whereas previously Nature had no standing in the court of law.

The people of Mendocino County have made history once again after being the first county in the nation to ban Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO's) in 2004. Now these Mendocinians of premier wine making, medical marijuana growing and self-declared independence are continuing to assert and reclaim their inherent rights to decide for themselves what the laws will be in their communities and their county. What may seem radical to many is only following in declarations and rights acknowledged to, by, and for them by the

California State and U.S. Constitution, as well as the Declaration of Independence: Across the nation a truly grass-roots movement of taken back power by, and for the people at the local levels has begun in earnest.

In California, in this election alone, two other counties, Santa Barbara and San Benito, put anti-fracking measures in front of the voters while Big Oil spent over \$7 million to defeat them. Santa Barbara was defeated last night but San Bernardino County's measure passed into law.

Ohio, New Mexico, Colorado, Maine, New Hampshire and Pennsylvania have in recent years passed into law local ordinances banning everything from toxic pig sludge dumping to Community Bill of Rights legislation as well as legal standing for the Rights of Nature to exist. In 2010, the City of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania made history by becoming the first city to pass a local ordinance banning hydraulic fracking.

So far, state courts have upheld these rights in Colorado and Ohio. However, a bigger challenge comes in coming months as a federal judge will make ruling on Mora County, New Mexico's recent local ordinance passed that bans fracking in their county. It will be high stakes for all as over 30% of the states revenues comes from the oil and gas industry.

Yet clearly the people of Mora County are choosing to protect their health and well being over profit, jobs and revenues for their county.

Last week NASA released photos taken from space showing mass methane gas releases from the four corners region of the Southwestern United States, stunning all as to the widespread drastic effects that intense and increasing fracking activities are having on our environment.

Up north in Oregon, Lane and Benton Counties are bringing to vote local ordinances to preempt Oregon state laws for the right to determine local food sovereignty. Last year, Oregon had preempted local counties from banning GMO's in their communities. Communities are now empowering themselves and fighting back. Who Will Enforce These New Laws?

The next question that invariably comes up about the new local law is who will enforce it? Over the past few years a national organization called the Constitutional Sheriffs and Peace Officers Association (CSPOA) was formed to protect the people and their constitutional rights in the communities they serve over state and federal jurisdictions.

Among other things, CSPOA makes claim that they are being adherent to the U.S. Constitution and that first, last, and foremost, it is the local sheriffs and community police officers who have final law and protection of its people authority.

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Jim Krage

Jim go to [www.JamesKrage.com](http://www.JamesKrage.com)

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